Oklahoma Chess Monthly

JANUARY 2017

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

(From a Chess Silhouettes postcard collection)

In This Issue:

- Lou Hays Remembers David Bronstein
- The Stradivarius of Chess
- What's New in Arkansas Chess
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Welcome to the Chess New Year 2017

Chess and Changes Ahead

As the Beatles said, "You've got to admit it's getting better … can't get no worse."

2016 was a year of difficult changes all over the world, and it seems to me this was also true for chess in our region. We saw the passing of two influential organizers, with the resulting questions of how to carry on with traditional tournament chess events.

Still, many volunteers have stepped up, and we have a renewed effort with innovative events coming for 2017 that should make for an active chess scene for classical chess as well as rapid and scholastic. This includes a rejuvenated Arkansas calendar being spearheaded there by Karis Bellaserio who writes an article in this issue for us about the resurgence of chess events in that state and what they have brewing for 2017. The Kansas Open will once again be in nearby Wichita this July as well.

"Oklahoma's Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"

http://ocfchess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation

Register Online for Free

Editor: Tom Braunlich

Asst. Editor: Rebecca Rutledge

Published the 1st of each month.

Send story submissions and tournament reports, etc., by the 15th of the previous month to mailto:tom.braunlich@cox.net

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The tournament scene is looking pretty good and I hope you will support these events — without your support they tend to disappear.

For this publication, I am very excited about what we have coming up.

In this issue we begin a series of articles by veteran Oklahoma expert Lou Hays, chess publisher and author of the ultimate book on Bobby Fischer's collected chess games. He will be showcasing remembrances about the grandmasters he has known. The first installment is on the great David Bronstein, and you won't believe what is coming up in this series.

Next month we debut also a new series by John Cope, exploring seldom-discussed issues of special interest all players, including scholastic coaches, players, and parents.

There is much more ahead, but I want to mention something special for 2017…

This is the 60th anniversary of Jerry Spann becoming USCF president in 1957, a turning point in the history of the USCF that unfortunately has been largely forgotten by modern players. I am researching a major article on this Oklahoman who changed U.S. chess that will appear later this year. The OCF is bringing back the Jerry Spann Memorial again – and I will show what the importance of that is with quotes from the many masters and national chess figures who clamored for that memorial following Spann's untimely passing in 1968.

I hope you enjoy all this interesting chess material! Please email me with your feedback on articles, your suggestions for new stories or features that we might consider, and your thoughts on chess in the Oklahoma region. This is your publication, so be part of it.

Lou Hays Remembers…

Grandmasters I Have Known: David Bronstein

by Lou Hays

When I lived in Dallas, I was fortunate to be able to meet many famous grandmasters. One of the most fascinating was the great David Bronstein, who stayed at my house for three days in 1993. The encounter was unforgettable, and at times even humilating! If you think he was just another Soviet super-grandmaster think again; he was a unique and magical character.

Before I tell you my stories about him, some brief background on how this came to be:

Although I began playing in chess tournaments in 1973, inspired by Bobby Fischer's championship victory, I had learned to play in Muskogee, Oklahoma, in 1957 at the age of ten. But chess had faded into the background for me until that Summer of 1972 came and coverage of the upcoming Fischer-Spassky match was top of the news virtually every day. Bobby's antics kept the match front page for weeks before the first move was played. I had met Dee Drake (one of the best players in the state at the time) and consulted with him on ways to get better. My first

tournament was in March of 1973 at age 25 (it's never too late).

After a few more years on and off chess, in 1978 I achieved a rating of 1805. Business demands led me to Dallas in 1979 where I joined the Dallas Chess Club. Membership there opened enormous opportunities for improvement. I could walk in any Tuesday, Friday night, Saturday or Sunday, and nearly always have an expert or master to challenge to a blitz match, as long as I had a quarter to bet on each game. Such cheap and valuable lessons! I studied throughout the 80's with NM John Jacobs, a former Texas state champion, and reached my peak rating of 2181 in 1986.

Grandmasters came into my life by a happy circumstance… During these years, I was president of the Dallas Chess Club several times, and I became acquainted with many influential people in the chess world, including Hal Bogner, a chess organizer and software developer from Half Moon Bay, California. Hal would call to let me know when top grandmasters were touring the country, and I would book them for a Dallas exhibition. Since I was always the "point man" organizing these events, on a shoestring budget, the visiting masters all stayed at my house. I had a pretty good sized home, a tolerant wife, no kids running around, and provided a peaceful setting for these illsutrious visitors for a few days. This gave me a golden chance to get to know them. We had many such events, and I'll have more stories about these grandmasters in future articles.

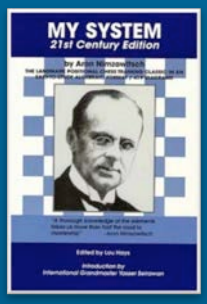
GM David Bronstein

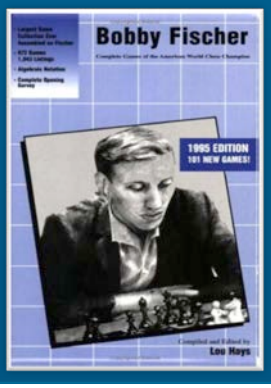
Russian GM David Bronstein (1924 - 2006) was one of the most brilliant and creative chess players of the 20th century. He was a chess fanatic and loved the commotion of chess clubs, playing lightning chess every evening even during his training days for the world championship. His fanaticism fueled a fiery imagination. He was once called *The Priest of the Spirit of Chess*.

About the Author…

Lou Hays

Many Oklahoma players under age 50 may not be familiar with Lou. A native of Muskogee, in 1977-78 he organized two memorable Jerry Spann Memorials with prize funds large enough to draw IMs from as far away as Minnesota, and which drew TV sports coverage from Tulsa channel 8. Soon after he moved to Dallas where, among other things, in the 1990s he started a chess publishing house that printed 19 books. Some were popular reprints like Nimzovich's *My System*, (with a new forward by Yasser Seirawan), plus he worked with GMs on new books as well. He wrote two books on tactics, and he personally researched an updated compilation of Bobby Fischer's games that is considered to be definitive. He came to know many famous players and hosted them at his house, now the subject of this series of articles. Recently he moved back to Oklahoma, in Tahlequah.





He made computer-like moves decades before the first chess computer was invented. Svetozar Gligoric, a world famous grandmaster and contemporary of Bronstein once commented on a postmortem analysis with him, "*I regarded with disbelief the variations which Bronstein*

GM David Bronstein

considered during play. It was a fantastic world into which my cold reason, even had I been able, would never have entered."

In 1951 Bronstein tied a match for the World Championship with reigning champion Mikhail Botvinnik. The tie allowed Botvinnik to retain the title. GM Bronstein, who may have been under orders from the Soviet bosses not to win, claimed later that, "I just wanted to prove that Botvinnik wasn't a God." He either proved that point or perhaps proved that *both* players were chess Gods.

I believe any chess player can make marked improvement by studying the games of Grandmaster Bronstein and reading his many books. His classic *Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953* (http://amzn.to/2hBEykU) is one of the greatest chess books ever written.

Here are three extraordinary examples of Bronstein's dazzling tactical play:

Mikenas-Bronstein, USSR Ch. 1965. Black to move.

The ultimate back rank situation, beautifully exploited. White has just played 24. Rh4-b4 protecting the b-pawn. Bronstein uncorked 24...Rxa3!! Game over.

Bronstein – E Geller, USSR Ch. 1961. White to move.

White, out of the blue, announced a forced mate in three moves. 20.Qg6!! fxg6 21.Rxg7+ K moves 22.Ng6#.

Bronstein - Korchnoi, 1962. White to move.

Bronstein played 39.Rxh6+!! and Korchnoi resigned.
a) 39... gxh6 40.Qg8+ Kf6 41.Qf8+;
b) 39... Kxh6 40.Qh8+ Kg6 41.Qh5+ Kf6 42.g5+! wins white's queen. c) 39... Kf7 40.Qc7+ Kg8 41.Qc8+ Kf7 42.Qe6+ Kf8 43.Rh8#;
d) 39... Kg5 40.Qe5+ Kxg4 41.Rg6+ Kh4 42.Qg5#;
Bronstein claimed this was "one of the best combinations in my life, if not the best."

Bronstein in Dallas

GM Bronstein arrived in Dallas on June 7, 1993. He was a short and portly man, 69 years of age. He was in poor health, and wore a colostomy bag. Bronstein was a perfect gentleman — courteous, friendly, and effervescent in his zeal for chess. He spoke English fluently. For the entire three days he spent at our home, he was constantly drawn to the big chess table in my living room, always exploring chess positions.

Due to his recalcitrance with the Soviet bosses, Bronstein never had much opportunity to travel or make money and he was very sensitive on the subject of wealth. The first evening he stayed with us, my wife Susan and I drove him to the local Albertson's food store to pick up items that David might need during his stay. We walked into the store's front door, took a few steps, and Bronstein, looking around, suddenly grabbed my arm and said, "I cannot do this." Tears welled up in his eyes and he said he wanted to go back and wait for us in the car. After a lifetime of poverty, food shortages, and misery inflicted by life the former Soviet Union, he couldn't get his head around what he was seeing! The spectacle of a modern American supermarket — the abundance of food stacked high, bright lights, wads of money, full shopping carts — was too much for Bronstein

TOP 25

For JANUARY 2017

Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players				
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2453	-33	
2	Daniel Ng	2291	-9	
3	Howard Zhong	2238	9	
4	Mark Hulsey	2225	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2201	0	
6	Tom Amburn	2200	0	
7	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2179	0	
8	Sergey Galant	2178	0	
9	Joshua Alexander	2173	0	
10	David Zelnick	2161	6	
11	Anthony Paolercio	2130	0	
12	Chuck Johnson	2104	-15	
13	John Cope	2089	0	
14	Ryan Farell	2089	0	
15	Michael Nugent	2087	0	▼
16	Tom Patton	2080	0	▼
17	James Tyner	2074	0	▼
18	David Luscomb	2068	0	▼
19	Charles D Unruh	2062	0	▼
21	Joe Dean Veal	2061	28	▲
22	Veronika Zilajeva	2059	0	▼
23	Matt Dalthorp	2024	0	▼
20	Alan Islas	2024	new	▲
24	James Long	2006	33	▲
25	Ciaran O'Hare	2001	0	

Player of the Month

DAVID ZELNICK

Playing only in the one-game-a-month Ladder event this year, except for one weekend Swiss, David steadily raised his rating to within sight of the NM barrier.

Bronstein (right) vs. Botvinnik in their championship match.

to absorb.

When we got home and David couldn't wait to see my chess books. He selected a few and returned to the chessboard. I sat with him as he browsed through a combination book I had published a couple of years earlier. He pointed to one diagram after the next, instantly giving the solution. "Yes, I know this position," he'd say, nodding his head and giving the answer. He rapidly worked through many pages then, seemingly satisfied, asked if I wanted to play blitz. I was surprised, as grandmasters aren't usually keen to play against "mere" experts.

I got out my old BHB chess clock and set the hands to five minutes apiece. "No, no, give me fifteen minutes" he said. "Fifteen minutes?" I asked incredulously. "Yes, fifteen minutes -- for the whole evening." I then asked him how much time I should have. "Take whatever you want, I don't care. Let's play."

The man just wanted to play fast chess, and what an experience it was for me. He played very rapidly, every game with a series of dazzling shots coming out of nowhere. It's the same feeling I got in later years when I first played against strong computer programs, except that Bronstein, in addition to the crushing tactics, was playing a strong positional game at the same time. There was no worry about losing on time. He never used more than a minute or two before I was mated or had to resign.

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page

White to move and WIN. (Easy)

White to move and DRAW. (Difficult)
Use your imagination.

Then the humiliating part came. Bronstein, no doubt bored, said, "Let's change the rules. I shoot from long range." Puzzled, I asked what he meant by "shoot from long range" and he explained that he wouldn't bring any major pieces into my half of the board and would "shoot" at my king with the long range pieces, attacking from his side of the board. I almost laughed. But to my ultimate chagrin and embarrassment, he started marching his pawns forward, blasting open lines to my king, and indeed strafed me into submission with sweeping bishops, queen, and rooks, all "shooting" from his half of the board. After three or four of these mortifying losses, I called it a night. With my 2100+ rating, I thought I knew a little about chess, but Bronstein did something to me on the chessboard that night that I'll never comprehend. He was from another planet. I still believe some kind of magic was involved.

"Let's change the rules. I shoot from long range."

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The next morning we visited Chess Digest in Dallas, in those days one of the largest chess book sellers in the U.S. Unfortunately Ken Smith, the owner, wasn't in the office that day. But we browsed through this warehouse. David picked up a copy of the 1983 book *David Bronstein, Chess Improviser* (Pergamon Russian Chess Series) and said he would like to buy it. I cringed when the young clerk rang up the $20+ sales price and waited for Bronstein to pull out his wallet. David paid it, but I could tell he was bothered that the book wasn't given to him. After all, he was famous the world over and had played a tied match for the World Championship. I reimbursed him for the book and explained that the clerk had no authority to give books away. Capitalism.

That evening we went to the Dallas Chess Club for Bronstein's lecture and simul exhibition. He spoke of his love for chess and the happiness and satisfaction it had given him over his lifetime. When the games began he played 1.e4 on every board, and answered

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Black's queen is hanging, but it can't be taken right away due to White getting mated on his back rank. This kind of tension often allows for surprising moves that create a second threat. In this case 1. Qa8!! wins, as it pins black's rook (no mate on d1), while threatening to simply take that rook, all the while renewing the threat to black's Q. Black must capture the queen 1… Rxa8, and now 2. fxe7 wins, as black can't prevent the advanced pawn from queening in a few moves. (Threat 3. Rd8).

(2) You probably saw forcing the pawns into a blockade -- 1. Ng4+ fxg4 2. d4+ Ke6 – as the starting moves, but how to draw from here? The position is not a complete blockade as black can bring his Q through a8 to a6 and into white's position where it will win. To solve this you must think creatively how to draw. The solution is 3. Rh1!!, Qh8 4. Ke1, Qa8 5. Kf1, Qa6+ 6. Kg1 and now, thanks to White "burying" his rook on h1, Black cannot come in with his queen along the diagonal as it will be stalemate! Black's queen must retreat 6… Qa8 then 7. Kf1, Qa6+ 8. Kg1 and Black can't make progress without stalemating the white king.

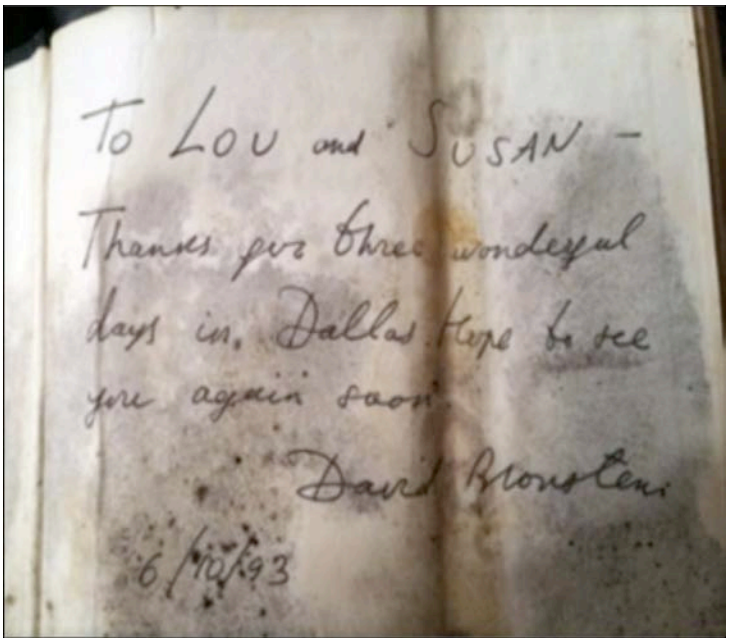
every 1…c5 with 2.d4 and 3. c3, the Smith-Morra Gambit, no doubt in honor of Ken Smith. After all, this was Dallas.

It has been nearly a quarter century since Bronstein's simul and as I recall, he didn't lose any games, although I cannot be sure. A 2013 thunderstorm caused a large tree to crash into the back yard shed where all of my chess memorabilia was stored. I lost most of my books, old scoresheets, pictures, trophies, and information that would have been useful in writing this article. But I think I'd remember if any locals had beaten him.

On the final day of Bronstein's visit, a chess friend of mine, Kay Hale, took him to visit Dealy Plaza. Seemingly every grandmaster who visited Dallas was fascinated by the site of Kennedy's shooting.

In later life Bronstein strongly advocated for faster time controls. He believed the old 40 moves in 2 ½ hours time was boring to spectators and limited the sport's audience, and that rapid chess would be more appealing. I think he would be happy to know he has been somewhat vindicated by recent experience in the 10 years since his passing.

I treasure those golden days I was able to spend with David Bronstein, a true gentleman and unique chess genius. There has never been another like him.



I was able to save this autographed copy of one of his books from the tree accident in 2013. It was the one thing I treasured most. Now that David is gone, it makes me sad to see it. It reads,

"To Lou and Susan – Thanks for three wonderful days in Dallas. Hope to see you again soon." --David Bronstein 6/10/93

Jim Berry, OCF leader and former USCF President, will be undergoing major heart surgery early in January.

Since Frank K Berry, his twin brother, died from an unexpected heart attack last year, Jim decided he should get checked out, expecting a clean bill of health since he plays golf every day. The full battery of tests, however, showed major blockages in parts of his heart, and apparently he is not a candidate for stents. Open-heart bypass surgery will be required, he says, tentatively scheduled for January 5. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim, Ann, and their family.

Tommy Hay, who organized The Challenger's Club in Oklahoma City to bring much-needed tournament play to that neglected metro area, has announced he is resigning. How this will affect the reliable one-day events he organized about four times a year is unclear. Joe Veal is to take over.

Tommy told me he had been thinking about leaving chess for a while but when a recent dispute arose he decided that was a sign to drop out and instead plans to "just lay low and enjoy life," including doing some writing. Hopefully he will not lay low too long.

Howard Zhong placed 2nd in the 10th Grade section of the National K-12 Grade Championships scholastic tournament in Nashville, TN, December 16-18. Howard led going into the last round but lost to a 2376-rated player, Albert Lu of California. An excellent result.

Howard was the only Oklahoma player to participate. More next issue.

GM Timur Gareyev, "The Blindfold King," finally achieved his longtime goal of setting the world record for simultaneous blindfold chess this past December 3, in Las Vegas. He played 48 games simultaneously, (35 wins, 6 losses, 7 draws) in a feat that took over 19 hours and left him exhausted. The level of the competition was quite high, including at least one master and 20 over 1800. Info: https://new.uschess.org/news/blindfold-king-breaks-world-record/

The amiable GM has performed his blindfold exhibitions several times in Oklahoma. He has a personal website devoted to his blindfold play here: http://www.blindfoldchesschampion.com

The Arkansas State Championship was held this past August 19-21 in Fort Smith. Organizer Karis Bellisario (see story elsewhere in this issue) says it is the first time in 35 years it was held there. Okies dominated three of the top four spots in the six-round event, among 39 players from seven states.

The winner was Advait Patel with 5.5, Jamal Chamieh was second with 5.0, and James Long had 4.5 to tie for third with Bill Orton of Arkansas, who thus earned another state championship title.
Class B was won by Hon Chung and Miles Bowlin, Class C by Jonathan Carlson, Class D by Morgan O'Neal, Unrated by Brandon Crabtree and Joseph Buck. Steven Bellisario (1465) won the "Upset" award with his victory in Round 1 over Alexander Wolf (1900).

The Chess Club at OU continues its ambitious activity into 2017. It has announced it will host a variety of one- and two-day events in Norman about once every month during the Spring, a mixture of one-day quads and two-day Swisses. They also will continue to donate time supporting local scholastic chess. They have put in a bid to host the Pan American Collegiate Team Chess Championship in December 2017. Club President Florian Helff has been graduated and is moving to Washington State. Matt Dalthorp will replace him for 2017.

The *Stradivarius* of Chess

By Istvan Szabad

For a concert violinist, the *Stradivarius* is the ultimate instrument of their art, not because it is the prettiest but because the quality of its sound is considered to be the best by the greatest virtuosos themselves. Others dispute if the superiority in sound is really true and blind tests have backed them up, so it is a matter of opinion. But who can really argue with the belief of a Heifitz or a Paganini about the violin?

So, what would be the equivalent of a Stradivarius when it comes to chess sets?

Certainly the over-all Staunton design is the favorite among tournament players, but there are many variations of it and they differ dramatically in appearance, feel, size, weight, symbolism, style, and other features. Which one is the favorite of the greatest chess masters?

For the modern champions, it is hard to say what they prefer, as many of them have endorsed their own brand of commercial chess sets under their own name, and thus they have a special interest in answering the question. Magnus Carlsen, for example, has given his name to this interesting modern set: http://magnuscarlsen.com/product/the-official-magnus-carlsen-chess-set-and-board/

The one great champion who had a very clear opinion on this subject is the great Bobby Fischer. For him, there is one chess set design that was superior to all the others and was his favorite, and he even once explained why. Many chess set collectors agree with him.

The Dubrovnik.

Over the last 10-12 years going to Oklahoma chess tournaments I have never seen this very famous Dubrovnik design. In my collection I have one, even if it is just a replica. These chessmen are considered to have significant historical importance and are a timeless classic.

The original 1950 Dubrovnik set. Note the ball tops.

Dubrovnik is a very old town in Dalmatia, on the shore of the Adriatic Sea across from Italy. This area was part of the Holy Roman Empire. Dubrovnik's original name was Ragusa. It officially changed its name to "Dubrovnik" (a Croatian name) after 1918 when the town became part of the newly created country of Yugoslavia. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, communist Yugoslavia split into several smaller countries, and Dubrovnik now lives in Croatia. For long time the town has been a very popular tourist holiday resort.

In 1950, in the early days of the Cold War, Dubrovnik was selected to host the 9th Chess Olympiad. Many famous players were going to be there and Yugoslavia wanted to show something special, so they commissioned their own unique set to use for the tournament. The “Dubrovnik 1950”

design was created by academic painter and sculptor P. Pocek and approved by special art commission in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

An innovation of the set was its design without religious symbols (no cross on the top of the King). Even today this Christian symbol is sometimes a controversial issue for chess especially in Muslim countries. A region of Yugoslavia called Bosnia had the highest Muslim population in Europe, so it was natural for them to make this alteration. The non-symbolic ball on top of the King, Queen, and bishop is one of the distinctive features of the set, as is the off-color top on each bishop.

Light Weight

Surprisingly, the original Dubrovnik 1950 chessmen were NOT weighted! Heavy weight is normally considered to have a good psychological feel for players handling the pieces, and is by far the most common element among modern quality chess sets, or even cheaper popular sets for tournament play such as the Drueke Player's Choice set discussed in the November 2016 issue.

But Fischer specifically said he liked the light weight of the set, remarking that it made it good for travel. Maybe this was more important to grandmasters that had a gypsy lifestyle like him, rather than the rest of us. To prevent the light pieces from being top-heavy the Dubrovnik design has large bases and a squat design that keeps it is very stable.

Fifty of these original "1950 Dubrovnik" sets were made. They were only used for this one tournament. Most of them were donated to the players after the Olympiad, and only few offered to the public on sale. Now these original sets are very rare and nearly impossible to locate or buy.

Dubrovnik Gains Popularity

The Dubrovnik set was so popular in Yugoslavia that a new "re-issue" of them was made by the same company for wider sale there. This "Late 1950s Dubrovnik" set, sometimes called "Dubrovnik II," was very similar to the original but had a taller king, and a much "fatter" (squat-shaped) rook and bishop. In Yugoslavia in those days it became used for all international tournaments, the two most famous of which were the important 1958 Interzonal tournament in Portoroz (Slovenia), and the Candidates tournament in Bled (Slovenia).

Fischer vs Tal at the Candidates tournament in Bled, using the Dubrovnik set.

You can see it "in action" in this rare video, showing the eight candidates to choose a challenger for Botvinnik (in which it is funny to see how Tal makes his first move against the young Fischer!):
http://www.euscreen.eu/item.html?id=EUS_2308C7C86D13ADC6C547A262C385799F

These Late 1950s Dubrovnik sets from this first re-issue are valuable now and also rare but can sometimes be seen for sale.

Bobby Fischer played in both of the above-mentioned tournaments (when he was only a teenager!) and the design became his favorite. He was often photographed with it. You can see it with him on the cover of LIFE magazine, on the cover of his book *Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess*, or in some of the other well-known photos of him such as this one during study:

Fischer studying with his favorite set, the Dubrovnik.

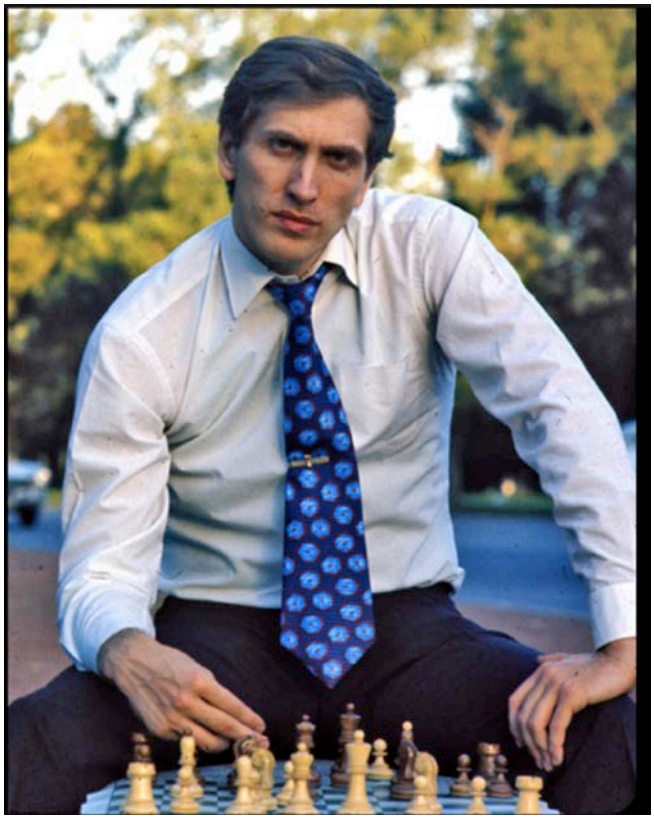
Late in his life, in an interview with Jonas Žnidaršič, Fischer said this about the set:

"It's just a joy to play with. It's a joy to hold, the definition of the pieces, the design, it's just a marvelous set. The one you see in the pictures I got in Zagreb (Croatia) around '68 or '70. That was my set that I always used. I analyzed with it, I took it all over the world with me. … I loved it so much that I kept it in my safe, you know, like some people have their jewels… The wood was so hard it was very hard to break it, yet it was very light. Perfect for traveling with. And yet the balance of the pieces, they didn't fall over, it was just a great set."

Unfortunately his favorite set, he says, was stolen from him. It's fun to speculate how much that set would be worth today.

There was a second re-issue of the Dubrovnik design made especially for the 19th Chess Olympiad in Siegen, West Germany, in 1970. It streamlined the pieces slightly and made them "smoother." Some people believe Fischer's set was of this 1970 design, although this seems to contradict Bobby's own words in this interview.

"Unfortunately his favorite set was stolen from him. It's fun to speculate how much that set would be worth today."



Bobby Fischer pictured in LIFE magazine in 1972, with his favorite Dubrovnik set.

In 1992 when the famous Fischer - Spassky "rematch" took place again in Sveti Stefan (Montenegro, former part of Yugoslavia) Bobby himself requested that an *original*

Dubrovnik 1950 set be used. Nikola Karaklajic, the main referee of the match, borrowed the set from his private collection (the box was later signed by Fischer and Spassky).

On this next video Jonas Znidarcic (with his strong Serb-Croatian accent) gives us an interesting detailed look at the original Dubrovnik 1950 set, comparing it to the version from the first "re-issue" ("Dubrovnik II") set from the late 1950s:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frFonXo0yew

Replicas

As I said the original Dubrovnik 1950 set is, while not as expensive as a Stradivarius, still nearly almost impossible to buy or even to locate. But if you would like to feel for yourself what Fischer's favorite set was like, I can recommend you some possibilities for where find replicas:

1. The most inexpensive option is to order it from India (Chessbazaar.com) They have a version starting at $135.19 (free shipping!).

2. USCF Sales has a nice version starting $199.00 (+ shipping), and sometimes members can take advantage of sales to get 10-20% off this price. These beautiful replicas are good quality and made by House of Staunton and are based on the second re-issue design from 1970.
http://www.uscfsales.com/chess-pieces/wood-chess-pieces/the-dubrovnik-series-chess-pieces-3-75-king.html

3. Direct from Slovenia you can get an expensive set from Noj Ltd. (made by Gregor Novak) starting at 528.00 Euros. They have other high quality historical chess sets, too.

Unfortunately Bobby Fischer doesn't exist anymore… and Yugoslavia doesn't exist anymore … but neither does Stradivarius!

But we can still play his violins, and we can remember our chess past by playing with this beautiful historical chess set, the Dubrovnik!

Bobby Fischer said it was the best, and who could argue with him?

Carapinha,Francisco (2349) -
O'Hare,Ciaran (2434)
Correspondence: Interzonal Team Ch./8
ICCF, 31.03.2015
[Notes by TB]

This brilliant correspondence game by Ciaran O'Hare reminds me of the games of Keres and Tal; sacrificing a piece for a vague initiative that seems to go on and on forever. But unlike the great grandmasters, O'Hare's opponent can use a computer. Yet he still can't find a defense!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 10.Be2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.e4 e5 13.g3

This looks odd, but it is one of the most common moves in this well-known position, played by none other than Karpov. O'Hare makes it look silly though!

13...Rfe8 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Bg5 Neg4

[15...Nxf3+ is more common here. 16.Bxf3 Qe7 17.Rac1 h6 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Bg2 Be5= 0-1 (57) Mikanovic,G (2273)-Krush,I (2421) /Montreal 2001]

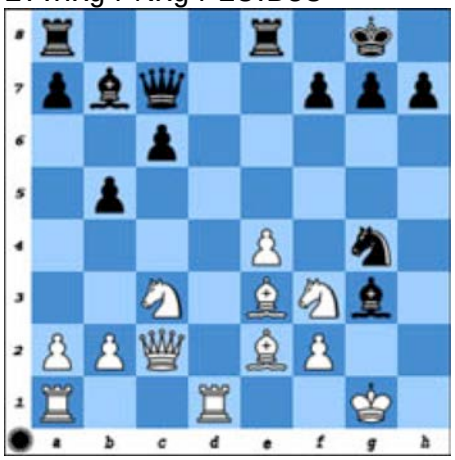
16.h3!?

[This seems to be a new move, a provocative attempt to win that my Fritz computer also says is best. But considering how Ciaran crushes it, perhaps it is not wise! GMs in OTB games have here played 16.Bxf6 i.e. 16...Nxf6 17.Rac1 Qe7 18.Nd4 g6 19.Bf3= 0-1 (58) Illescas Cordoba,M (2626)-Harikrishna,P (2612) /Mallorca 2004]

16...Bxg3!!

A true long-term sacrifice. This B can't be taken, but the knight behind it can be.

17.hxg4 Nxg4 18.Be3



18... Re6!?

[Very interesting. My computer doesn't like this and instead says black's best is 18...Nxe3 19.fxe3 Re6 which it calls about even, maybe a slight edge for white. Instead, Ciaran takes a different path, not exchanging pieces despite the damage to white's pawns, and keeping long-term pressure that is hard for white to overcome.]

19.Bd4 Rh6 20.b4

[20.Rac1, threatening Nxb5, looks good at first, winning a development tempo. But after the calm 20...Rc8 black will soon enough win the tempo back with ...Bf4, a move he wants to play anyway.]

20...Re8!

Offering more material!

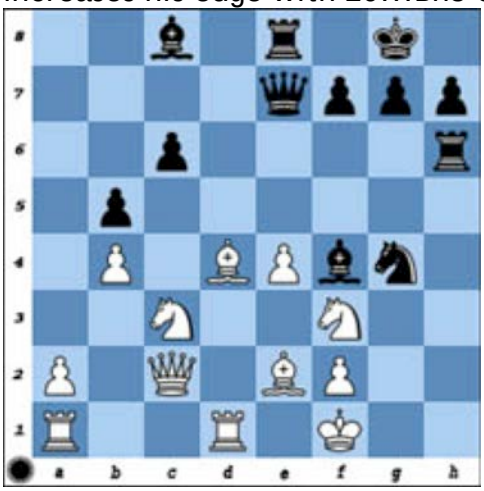
21.Bxa7

[Computer greed!?]

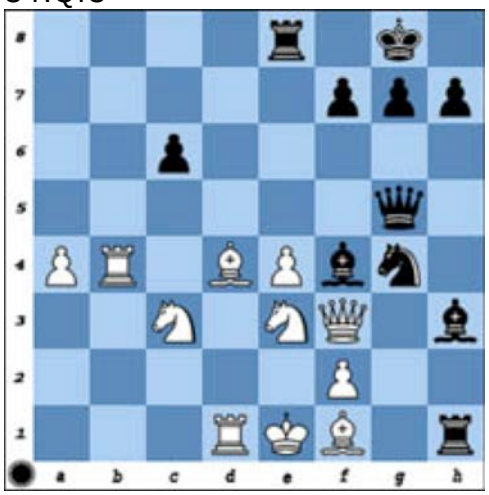
21... Bf4 22.Bc5

[At first I was going to suggest here 22.Nxb5 aiming to give back the piece to exchange queens into a dynamically equal ending. But my computer says that is met by the calm 22...Qc8! Threatening ...Ne3!

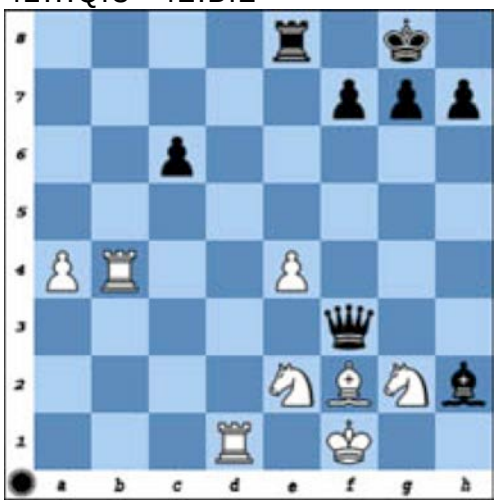
23.Bf1 *(23.Nc3 Ne3!)* 23...Nh2! and the black Q flows into the attack.]
22...Bc8
The storm clouds get darker...
23.Bd4
The third move in a row with this bishop can't be good. It seems white, or his computer, doesn't know what to do.
23...Qe7!?
[Black has at his disposal here an incredible move that he passes up: 23...Be3!? with the idea 24.Bxe3 Nxe3 25.fxe3 Qg3+ 26.Kf1 Rh1+; OR 23...Be3 24.Bxe3 Nxe3 and now there is another critical line: 25.Nd5 Rg6+!! 26.Kh1 Nxd5 27.Rxd5 *(27.exd5 Rh6+ 28.Kg1 Qd7 29.Bf1 Qg4+ 30.Bg2 Rg6 31.Ne1 Rxe1+)* 27...Qf4 28.Rh5 Bg4+ wins; So why didn't Ciaran play 23...Be3 then? Perhaps it was because of 24.e5!? Bxd4 25.Rxd4 Nxe5 26.Ne4 with further mind-boggling complications.]
24.Kf1!?
[White tries to run away. I would want to play for defense, but the computer brushes that aside with 24.Bf1 Nh2! 25.Bg2 Nxf3+ 26.Bxf3 and without the N for defense black increases his edge with 26...Bh3 etc.]



24...Qe6
By now the computer is convinced that Black has a serious advantage, but there is still a lot of play left... this attack is just starting!
25.Ke1 Rh1+ 26.Bf1 Qc4 27.Qe2 Qxb4 28.a4 Nf6
Targeting e4, methodically going after white's weaknesses.
29.Rab1 Qa5 30.Nd2 b4 31.Nc4 Qg5 32.Rxb4 Bh3 33.Ne3 Ng4!?
[Black is not interested at just winning his piece back for a material-up endgame after 33...Bxe3 34.Qxe3 Rxf1+ 35.Kd2 Rxf2+ 36.Kc1 Qxe3+ 37.Bxe3 Maybe it is winning, but White's outside passer gives some counter-chances here. Instead Ciaran keeps up the pressure.]
34.Qf3

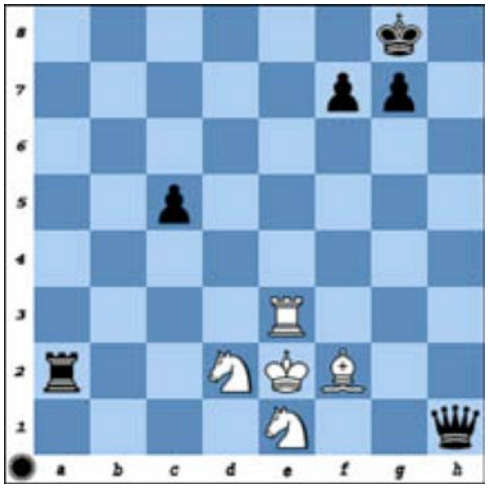


34... Nxf2!
35.Kxf2 Rh2+ 36.Bg2 Qh4+ 37.Kg1
[37.Ke2 Bxe3 38.Qxe3 Rxg2+ 39.Kd3 Rg3]
37...Bxg2! 38.Qxg2
[38.Nxg2? Rh1#]
38...Rxg2+ 39.Nxg2 Bh2+ 40.Kf1
So black ends up winning a queen, for two knights and a rook. In many cases white would be okay with that, but here Black's pressure continues...
40...Qh3 41.Ne2 [41.Rd2 c5!]
41...Qf3+ 42.Bf2



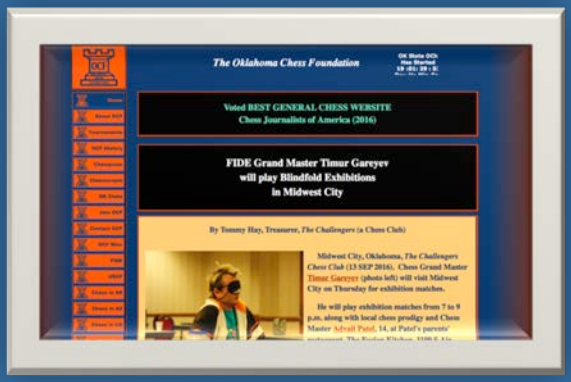
42... Bg3!
Once again, White's careful defensive setup gets demolished!
43.Nxg3 Qxd1+ 44.Ne1 h5 45.Nf5 Qd2 46.Rd4 Qf4 47.Ng3 c5 48.Rd3 h4 49.Rf3 Qe5 50.Nf5 Qh2 51.Nxh4 Qh1+ 52.Ke2

Rxe4+ 53.Re3 Rxa4 54.Nhf3 Ra2+ 55.Nd2



White's pieces huddle around their king like courtiers around a besieged monarch. They can't compete with Black's brave queen!
55… Qb7 56.Rd3 Qb4 57.Nef3 c4 58.Rd8+ Kh7 59.Be3 c3 0-1 A marvelous game!

Visit
www.ocfchess.org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What's New in Arkansas Chess

—OR—

Karis Bellisario and the Power of the Chess Mom

by Tom Braunlich

Arkansas chess has been in the doldrums for many years, with even fewer tournaments than in the rest of the region. But that's changing now, thanks in large part to the efforts of Fort Smith mother of eight and grandmother of nine Karis Bellisario. This "chess mom extraordinaire" has injected new life into chess in The Natural State, hosting tournaments, rejuvenating Fort Smith's Westark Chess Club, and serving as that club's president and as secretary of the ACA.

One cold January day two years ago, Karis Bellisario became a chess mom. Arkansas chess has not been the same since.

Her husband and kids had been casual players for decades, but Bellisario's involvement began when her youngest son Kyle, then 12, asked if there was a place to play in Fort Smith. Kyle's older brother had attended Westark Chess Club events a few years before, so Bellisario searched for the club on the Internet and brought both boys to its next meeting. Thus began an odyssey into the chess world many chess parents have experienced. But unlike most chess parents, Karis chose involvement over watching from the sidelines.

When she showed up with her two teen boys, she found a club that looked pretty typical—a small group of men whose hair was a peppered mix of black and white, just like their chess sets.

"There were a few guys in their upper thirties, but most were Bobby Fischer-era players," Bellisario said. Decidedly missing were younger players and women. At a meeting the following month, Kyle played the

oldest person at the club, Bob Brantner, who had come in carrying an oxygen tank along with his chess set.

“Taking photos of these two, decades apart in age, was touching,” she said. When Brantner died not long after, those photos became especially precious to Bellisario. But when she tried to share them to the club’s Facebook page, she learned its administrator had moved to Tulsa. The solution? Bellisario volunteered to do the club’s social media. Soon she added the role of librarian, organizing Brantner’s chess book collection after it was donated to the club.

While Bellisario promoted Westark Chess Club on social media, its veteran members mentored her youngsters. When they encouraged the kids to play in a tournament in Little Rock in 2015, the resulting trip catalyzed another transition. It rained both ways on the six-hour round trip, and most of her boys’ opponents were from their hometown.

So Bellisario decided to bring tournaments closer to home. By Spring 2016 this became especially imperative when son Steven won the Arkansas spot for the Denker Tournament of High School Champions.

"My initial goals in becoming a TD were selfish,” she said. She wanted her boys to sleep in their own beds after tournaments, and she wanted to cut down on travel expenses. So she hit the road with her sons. They attended tournaments in both Arkansas and Oklahoma. While the boys competed, Bellisario met tournament directors, organizers and volunteers, building relationships, asking questions, and learning what it took to be a TD.

This map of active chess cities in the Oklahoma chess region — which can be thought of as the corridor running parallel to Interstate highways I-30 and I-44 between Dallas/Memphis and OKC/St.Louis — shows the main chess territory of OCM’s readership. Clearly Fort Smith does occupy a central location that is reasonably close for drivers from OKC, Tulsa, Dallas, or Little Rock.

Karis Bellisario reading the rulebook.

When she started promoting her first tournament in February 2016, Bellisario got an email from someone she'd never heard of, and who would soon become someone she'd never forget. His name was Frank Berry.

"I had no idea who he was," Bellisario said. "He let me know the time control was not the best and should be changed." The ensuing email exchange established a relationship Bellisario said was based on "respect for mutual honesty." It was in Norman, at Frank's final tournament, that she finally met him face to face.

"He greeted me as an old friend," Bellisario said, recalling the admiration with which Frank looked at her recent tournament photos and his willingness to answer her questions with his characteristic honesty.

Becoming a TD was challenging but not as hard for her as one might think, since many players were happy to support someone willing to take on the responsibility. Ernest Cialone, the club's first president, gave her tournament supplies, WinTD software, and the 6th edition of the rulebook. "I began reading," she says simply.

Bellisario has developed some creative techniques to keep her events profitable. Instead of trophies, she has used chess-themed artwork as prizes— hand painted pictures she produces herself. Winners of her tournaments have taken home chess cookies, gold coins, antique chess bookends, and handcrafted Christmas ornaments.

Karis' hand painted trophy artwork.

An experienced marketer and promoter, she says she tries to bring both a hospitable spirit and an entrepreneurial mindset to her events. (She has a strong background in photography and business, including a career with a Fortune 500 company and 14 years with BNI (Business Networking International) where she coaches other entrepreneurs.) This approach to chess is working. She has hosted a string of successful events, including a Christmas quad, an end-of-the-school-year scholastic tournament, and the Oklahoma/Arkansas "Friendly Feud" rapid and blitz event. She also helped put on the first Arkansas State Championship to be held in Fort Smith in 35 years.

Bellisario said she particularly enjoys the camaraderie on display at the events she organizes.

"It was encouraging to watch experienced players take time to coach the more novice players after the rapid games," she said of the October Friendly Feud. "It's awesome to see chess bridge generations and bond families." (Continued on page 25)

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

Jan 14 2017 **Southwest MO Diehards' Winter Open** **Joplin MO**
4-SS; G/60 + 5, $540 Guaranteed, Hilton Garden Inn, 2544 E. 32nd St., Joplin MO. EF: $30 adv, $40 at site. More Info: http://www.joplinchess.org/2016/12/southwest-missouri-diehards-winter-open/

Jan 21 2017 **2nd Westark Winter Warmup** **Fort Smith AR**
4-SS; G/70 d5, 4 sections, Community Church at Chaffee Crossing, 1500 Church St., Barling, AR. EF:$30, minus various discounts. Rapid side event the night before. Info: http://www.arkansaschess.net

Jan 28-29 2017 **3rd Norman Chess Festival** **Norman OK**
5-SS; G/90 + 30, 3 sections. OU Student Union. More Info: http://oklahoma.orgsync.com/org/chess/home

Feb 11 2017 **4th "Do or Do Not" Quads** **Norman OK**
3-RR Quads; G/60 + 30. OU Student Union. More Info: http://oklahoma.orgsync.com/org/chess/home

Feb 16-20 2017 **Southwest Class Championships** **Fort Worth TX**
9SS (Master Section), 7SS (other sections). $30,000 total prize fund. DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Blvd., Fort Worth, TX. More info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php?STATE=TX

Mar 1 2017 **Pioneer Chess League Season Begins** **OK**
Pre-season team signups begin January 1. See Article last issue. More info on the OCF website.

Mar 18-19 2017 **Arkansas Open** **Fayetteville AR**
5-SS; G/90 + 30, Mount Sequoyah Retreat Center, 150 N. Skyline Dr., Fayetteville AR. Two Sections: ($$ b/40) Open: $250-150; U1800-$120; Reserve: (U-1600) $150-100; U-1300-$100; Upset-$50; EF: Open $45; Reserve $35 (deduct $5 from either if postmarked by Mar. 13). TD: Les Kline, 801 N. Rush Dr., Fayetteville AR 72701; cl_kline@sbcglobal.net; (479) 595-5720. Reg. 8:15-9:15 AM Sat.; Rds. 9:30-2-6:30; Sun. 9-1:15. ACA/OSA; USCF required. Lodging: Cabin rooms $80 (no tax) at Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center; 800-760-8126 (toll free), M-F 9am-5pm.

Mar 25 2017 **5th "Do or Do Not" Quads** **Norman OK**
3-RR Quads; G/60 + 30. OU Student Union. More Info: http://oklahoma.orgsync.com/org/chess/home

Apr 22 2017 **6th "Do or Do Not" Quads** **Norman OK**
3-RR Quads; G/60 + 30. OU Student Union. More Info: http://oklahoma.orgsync.com/org/chess/home

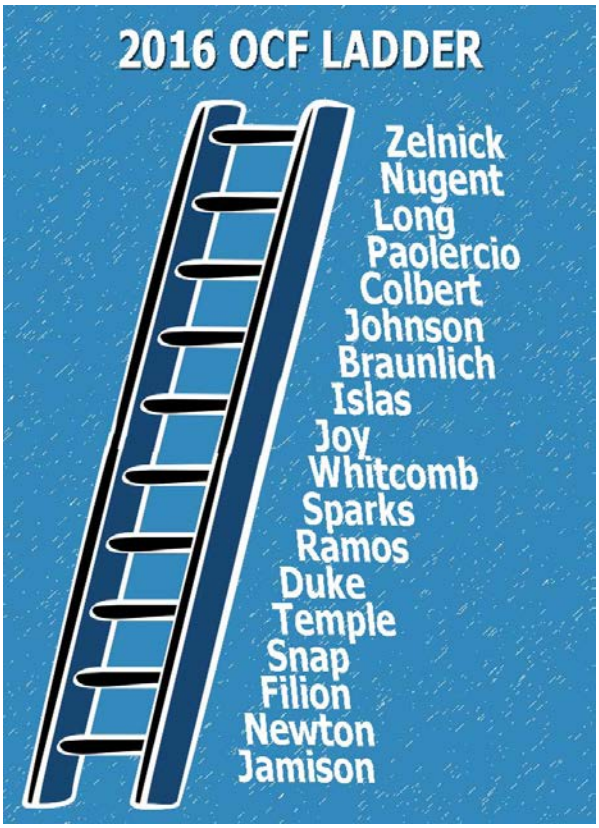
Apr 29 2017 **15th Red River Shootout** **Davis OK**
This is the REAL Red River Shootout, the annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas. 2 games with same opponent. More details at http://rrsochess.net/rrso_home.html#RRSO including the history of the event, team captains, and more.

Tournament Reports

2016 OCF LADDER

The OCF "Ladder" tournament started by Steve Wharry (see article on him last month) in Tulsa, ended on December 3, 2016, with the topmost rung being occupied by David Zelnick. With a total of 18 participants playing at the rate of one game per month (with extra-long time controls), and a prize fund that offered everyone $50 for each win, the event was very hard fought and produced many exciting games. Some of these games have already been published and there are more in this and later issues.

Below is a graphic with the final standings. (The final crosstable with a multitude of bye games is rather too messy to publish, but you can see the monthly crosstables online.) Nugent knocked me off, Zel bounced Nugent and then withstood challenges from Johnson and Colbert too. Zelnick gained nearly 50 rating points from this event. Many players in the ladder increased their ratings this year.



The tourney generated one new expert, Alan Islas (new here from Mexico), and also had two other unrated players who gained experience; Sal Ramos and Daniel Filion. Veteran Bill Sparks got his rating back up to Class B again, and Charlie Snap was able to play for the first time in five years.

I'm not sure if a tournament run like a ladder is an experiment that should be repeated. Technically it was awkward to pair and still keep colors balanced. (Islas had four blacks in a row at one point, for example.) The use of a ladder as a challenge system for clubs, however, is a format that is under-used and worth trying.

(Top) Four experts in play: (left to right) Nugent, Johnson, Paolercio, Zelnick. (Bottom) The comfortable playing hall during the event.

New Annual Brazos Team Match, North Texas

Tarrant Tops Waco 10-8
by Jim Hollingsworth, Chief TD, BRAZOS

Hillsboro, TX (Oct. 29, 2016) — The Tarrant County Chess Team, captained by Adam Hart, fell behind early and trailed at halftime against the Waco Chess Team 5-4. However, a strong second half surge, led by Tarrant Ace Helen Jamison, ensured the victory. Helen achieved the honor of being the first BRAZOS "Ace" with her sweep of Board 9. Her two points proved to be the exact margin of victory in this hard fought match. Jason Lund paced the Waco Chess Team with his 2-0 sweep of Board 5.

John De Vries, Waco Chess Team Captain, was co-organizer of this first annual event, called BRAZOS, along with Chief TD Jim Hollingsworth.

BRAZOS is modeled after the Red River Shootout (RRSO), the annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas. A key difference between BRAZOS and RRSO is all BRAZOS boards are decided and announced at least three weeks prior to aid preparation. Games will be in the Okie Database update.

TARANT COUNTY	WACO	
GEORGE M JEMPTY	— DARRYL L WEST	1-1
DANNY L DUNN	— JOHN MARTINEZ	1-1
ROBERT RUSSELL HEISE	— JAMES R MCKETHAN	1-1
ZACHARY GRABER	— DANIEL J GUEL	1.5-0.5
THOMAS E CRANE	— JASON JAMES LUND	0-2
ROBERT D CURTIS	— JOHN T DE VRIES	1-1
BENJAMIN J DAVIS	— ULICES ARIAS	1.5-0.5
ADAM HART	— PHILLIP BRAM FOSTER	1-1
HELEN JAMISON	— DAVID LEMPER	2-0
TOTAL		10-8

The Honorable Edith Turner Omberg, Mayor of the City of Hillsboro, officiated the opening ceremonies at Hill College. She also issued an official proclamation declaring Saturday, October 29, 2016, "BRAZOS Chess Day."

3rd "Do or Do Not" Quads in Norman

The Chess Club at OU held another quad event on November 26th called "Do or Do Not", a meme from Star Wars. Master Yoda is training young Skywalker and asks him to do something seemingly impossible. Luke says, "I'll try." Yoda responds, "No! Try not! Do. Or do not. There is no try." There was lots of Doing, and Not Doing, in four hard-fought round-robins hosted by the club at the Student Union in Norman. Howard Zhong won the top section. Directed by Florian Helff.

3rd "Do Or Do Not" Quads

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	HOWARD ZHONG	2.0	*	D 3	W 2	D 4
OK	13761257 / R: 2231 ->2228			W	B	W
2	JOE DEAN VEAL	2.0	L 1	W 3	*	W 4
OK	12520979 / R: 2042 ->2061		W	B		W
3	CHIBUZO CHURCHILL ILONZE	1.5	D 1	*	L 2	W 4
OK	15039294 / R: 2194P19->2179P22		B		W	B
4	ERICK LOGAN ZACHARE	0.5	D 1	L 3	L 2	*
OK	15737794 / R: 1972 ->1964		B	W	B	

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	CURTIS WILLIAMS	3.0	W 3	*	W 2	W 4
OK	12704398 / R: 1577 ->1682		B		W	B
2	RYAN CHRISTOPHER AMBURGY	2.0	W 3	L 1	*	W 4
OK	15437654 / R: 1603 ->1629		W	B		W
3	NAREN PULLELA	1.0	*	L 1	L 2	W 4
OK	15401978 / R: 1665 ->1643			W	B	W
4	JIM YI HUANG	0.0	L 3	L 1	L 2	*
OK	15424553 / R: 1652 ->1598		B	W	B	

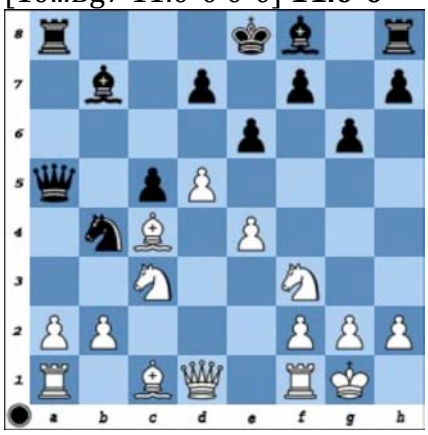
Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	ALEX T BOHN	2.5	W 3	*	W 2	D 4
OK	15755021 / R: 1486 ->1541		B		W	B
2	DONALD EDWARD WINSLOW	2.0	W 3	L 1	*	W 4
OK	11292950 / R: 1524 ->1536		W	B		W
3	CARLOS GARCIA MD	1.0	*	L 1	L 2	W 4
OK	12746352 / R: 1526 ->1500			W	B	W
4	LUCAS ALVAREZ	0.5	L 3	D 1	L 2	*
MO	15170104 / R: 1418 ->1394		B	W	B	

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	RAJASEKHAR ATTERI	3.0	W 2	*	W 3	W 4
OK	12779931 / R: 1210 ->1292		B		W	B
2	ERIC GREEN II	2.0	*	L 1	W 3	W 4
MD	14919765 / R: 1284 ->1279			W	B	W
3	PRANEEL D'SOUZA	1.0	L 2	L 1	*	W 4
OK	13562261 / R: 1217 ->1179		W	B		W
4	GABRIEL TEUBNER	0.0	L 2	L 1	L 3	*
OK	16119806 / R: Unrated-> 615P3		B	W	B	

Braunlich, Tom (2210) –
Nugent, Michael (2076) [A58]
2016 OCF Ladder (5.1), 06.08.2016
[Notes by TB]

With this game, Nugent took over the top spot on the "Ladder". It had an interesting opening... and an educational middlegame that I flubbed. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5** Michael and I had studied the Benko Gambit together a couple years ago so we had a tacit understanding we would roll it out in this game... **4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6** [This is a standard and often-played finesse over the obvious 5...Bxa6] **6.e3!?** I decided to try out a move that is not in most Benko Gambit books at all, trying to take advantage of black's 5th move. Now if black captures on a6 with his bishop, as usually is required in the Benko, white can capture there himself without the loss of tempo that he gets in the main lines after the normal 6. Nc3 move. **6...Nxa6!?** Michael plays by analogy with a line that is played when white plays e3 on move 5, the idea being to put the QB on b7, and target white's d-pawn with further moves like ...Nb4 and ...e6. Here however the inclusion of the move... g6 is not in black's favor. [The straightforward 6...Bxa6 7.Bxa6 Nxa6 8.Nc3 d6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 11.e4 with a relatively good Benko position for white, who is better developed than usual and has not had to weaken his kingside with g3.; Black does better to delay even longer the capture on a6, waiting for white to move his KB first so that he might lose a tempo with that bishop if he moves it again, and also arranging to recapture on a6 with the black queen -- this was played in the only game by a top GM that I have found: 6...Bg7 7.Nc3 Qa5 8.Bd2 0-0 *(8...Bxa6 9.Be2!?)* and here in the game Nikolic (2640) - Ivanchuk (2750), white played the bizarre 9.Ne4?! *(*Why not simply *9.Nf3* Isn't white better there? *9...Bxa6 10.Be2-* etc.*)* 9...Qb6 10.Qb3 Qxb3 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.axb3 Bxa6 13.Ne2 Bxb2 14.Ra2 Bg7 15.Nc3 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Bxf1 17.Rxa8 Bxg2 18.Rg1 Bxd5 and black is better. However, surely white can improve upon this line at several points.]

7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Nf3 Nb4 [Michael continues to follow his attack-d5 plan. It's good to have a plan! But he is getting behind in development and perhaps 8...Bg7 9.Bc4 0-0 10.0-0 is better, but gives white a clear slight advantage.] **9.Bc4 e6 10.e4** White has succeeded in solidifying d5 and is better. **10...Qa5** [10...Bg7 11.0-0 0-0] **11.0-0**



11...Ba6 This is Michael's idea, a standard positional thing in the Benko by which black gains access to the square d3 for his knight using a queen on a6. However, I thought this was further loss of time was extremely risky! **12.Bxa6** [Not accurate enough! Instead 12.Bg5! was sharper, according to my computer. 12...Bxc4 13.Bxf6 Bxf1 14.Bxh8 Ba6 15.Ne5 and Black's king has no shelter and his kingside is full of holes, and white is also still up a pawn.; So after 12.Bg5 if 12...Bg7 then 13.Nd2! is the simple idea I missed. The knight is ready to come to the "Nimzovich" square c4; and black isn't getting mated but he has no compensation for a pawn. 13...Bxc4 *(13...0-0 14.a3+-)* 14.Nxc4 Qa6 15.dxe6! Qxe6 16.e5! with a winning attack.] **12...Qxa6 13.Bg5 Bg7 14.Ne5!?** [This was my idea... it prevents black from castling and I thought would lead to a huge direct attack on the king. However, the computer says, you are up a pawn, just finish your development with something like 14.Qd2 0-0 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.Rfd1±] **14...Nfxd5** For the rest of the game Michael

defends very well. [14...0-0? 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nxd7 wins; 14...Nxe4? 15.dxe6! Qxe6 16.Nxe4 Qxe5 17.Nf6+ Bxf6 18.Re1±]

15.Nxd7!? [15.a3 is the computer's move, which I thought wasn't possible because of 15...Bxe5 16.axb4 Qxa1 but it points out 17.Qxa1 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 and here although I had seen white isn't threatening to win the rook with Ra8 because the B on e5 protects it, I failed to note white is threatening mate instead(!) and so black doesn't have time to play ...Nxb4. And if instead 18...Nc7 19.Nb5 0-0 20.Nxc7 Bxc7 21.bxc5 with a winning endgame for white!; 15.a3 Nc6 16.Nxd7± would be better than it is in the game.]

15...Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bxc3

17.Rc1 [Originally I had intended if we got to this position I'd have a mating attack with 17.Nf6+ but when we got here I found out it wasn't so easy. There are two lines here, and my thoughts compared to the computer's analysis are educational. I evaluated both lines wrong! Here is what my thoughts were at the time: The second option for black after Nf6+ was 17...Bxf6. I thought would be winning positionally for white after

a) The first line is 17...Kf8 when I focused on 18.Bh6+ I had hoped this would lead to mate but now thought that I was losing after 18...Ke7 19.Qd7+ Kxf6 and black's king surprisingly survives here, i.e. I could find no mate: 20.f4 *(20.g4 Bxa1 21.g5+ Ke5 22.Bg7+ Kf4)* 20...Bxa1 21.e5+ Kf5 22.Qxf7+ Ke4 etc.;

b) However, the computer sees a different truth here! 17...Kf8 18.Rb1! Why insist on playing directly for mate when you have a good position anyway? 18...Kg7 19.Nd7! (threatening Qf3 as well as Nxc5) 19...Rhd8 *(19...Bd4 20.Rxb4; 19...Qxa2 20.Qf3! Bd4 21.Bf6+)* 20.Bxd8 Rxd8 21.a3! Qxa3 22.Qd6± Okay, those are all computer moves; but I guess the point is that white doesn't have to sacrifice but can keep his initiative going by activating more pieces.; 18.Bxf6 0-0 19.Qd2 (threatening e4ñe5 and then Qh6 mating) 19...e5 20.Bxe5 and I thought I would be a pawn up with attacking chances and should be winning. However, this was a wrong evaluation too! Black can make things difficult here with 20...Rfe8 21.Qc3 Nd3! when the strong "octopus" on d3 combined with pressure on e4 and a2 makes it very hard for white to make progress. The computer says it is about equal after 22.Bh8 f6 23.Bxf6 Rxe4 24.Bh8 Re7=;

Going back to the game position after 16...Bxc3, the computer likes 17.Rb1 h6 *(*I had only considered *17...Qa4* thinking that this fork of d1 and d7 would force trades and a drawish ending, but this appears to be shallow thinking as the computer points out *18.Qf3! Qxd7 19.Qxc3 0-0 20.Bh6+-)* 18.Be3± as the best line for white. The point is that black's pieces on the queenside are awkwardly placed and vulnerable. e.g. it gives 18...Qc6 *(18...Qd3 19.Bxc5! Qxd7 20.Qb3!* winning back the piece with black's king still stuck*.)* 19.Nxc5 0-0 20.a4±]

17...Nxa2 18.e5?? [Frustrated that the move I wanted to play, 18.Nf6+ again didn't seem to lead to a direct attack, I went for an impulsive variation that had a major hole in it (or two!). But here the computer shows a beautiful and instructive reason why now the knight check does work — white needs to repeat moves and get the same position with black unable to castle, and then has a winning pawn grab -- 18...Kf8 *(18...Bxf6? 19.Bxf6 0-0 20.Rxc5±* white still has good attacking chances despite reduced

material.*)* 19.Nd7+! *(19.Bh6+ Ke7 20.Qd7+ Kxf6 21.f4 Bd4+ 22.Kh1* and white gets nowhere is the line I was stuck on.*)* 19...Ke8 *(19...Kg7? 20.Rxc3)* and now comes the point. We have the same position as before except black can no longer castle, and so white wins with 20.Nxc5! Qc6 21.Rc2 Qxc5 22.Rxa2 In the original position black could castle kingside here and be fine. But now ...0-0 is illegal, and black is lost!] **18...h6 19.Rc2 hxg5 20.Rxa2 Qxa2 21.Qd6** Threatening mate, but, **21...Bxe5** and there is no mate. **22.Qxe5** [22.Nxe5 Qd5 23.Qc7 0-0 24.Nd7 would win the exchange back but have a dead lost endgame that I was in no mood to play after 24...Qf5 25.Nxf8 Kxf8 so instead I plow on a few more moves a rook down. But the defense is easy for Michael...] **22...Kxd7 23.Qxc5 Qd5** splat **24.Qc2 Rhc8 25.Qb1 Rab8 26.Qa1 Ke7** Resigns. Well played Michael. Poor by me, but at least it is educational... ;-) **0-1**

Colbert, Jeff (2000) –
Paolercio, Anthony (2128) [C48]
OCF Ladder 2016 (4.2), 09.07.2016
[Notes byTB]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Ba4 Bc5 Explaining the game at Foolish Things, Anthony seemed to know this sometimes tricky line of the "Spanish Four Knights" very well. **6.Nxe5 0-0 7.Nd3** [Anthony showed one of the many little traps in this line for white: 7.0ñ0? d6 8.Nd3 Bg4 9.Qe1 Nf3+! 10.gxf3 Bxf3 with a winning kingside attack, i.e. 11.Nxc5 Ng4 12.d3 Qh4 13.Bf4 Qh3] **7...Bb6 8.e5 Ne8 9.Nd5** Colbert is also playing the right moves quickly. **9...d6 10.Ne3 c5** Anthony explained that black is thought to have general compensation for the pawn here -- due to white's poor development (especially his queenside is a long way from getting into the game), plus the idea of ...Bc7 followed by ...b5 and ...Bb7 with two bishops raking white's kingside. **11.exd6?** [A hasty move ruins everything for Jeff. It was important to kick out the knight ASAP. The main line goes... 11.c3 Nf5 12.0-0 Nxe3 13.dxe3 c4 14.Nb4 dxe5=] **11...Qxd6 12.0-0** [Now 12.c3 is more awkward, but still might be best. 12...Nc6 13.Qe2 Nf6] **12...Bc7 13.g3 Bh3**

14.Ng2 [Awkward, but 14.Re1 Qf6 threatening ...Nf3 was not appealing either. The computer suggests white might be okay there after 15.f4 b5 16.c3 bxa4 17.cxd4 Qxd4 but this is not any better than what white gets in the game continuation, which is similar but with the white pawn on f2.] **14...b5 15.c3 bxa4 16.cxd4 Qxd4** The great positioning of this queen is dominating, and makes white's defense very difficult. **17.Qf3 Nf6 18.Qe3 Qc4 19.b3** Sacrificing a pawn to get caught up in development is a good idea. **19...axb3 20.axb3 Qxb3 21.Ndf4** [Apparently Jeff said he had intended 21.Ra3 but then saw 21...Qb7 22.f3 c4!] **21...Qxe3 22.fxe3 Bd7** The ending a pawn up for black should be winning, but is tricky. Anthony sidesteps the tricks nicely to win it. **23.Ba3 Rfc8! 24.Rac1 c4! 25.Bb2** [25.Rxc4 Bb5] **25...Ne4 26.Rxc4 Nxd2 27.Rd4 Nxf1 28.Rxd7** Is the knight trapped? No... **28...Bxf4 29.Nxf4** [29.exf4 Rc2+] **29...Nxe3 30.Bd4 Rc1+ 31.Kf2 Ng4+ 32.Kg2 Rc2+ 33.Kh3 Nf2+ 34.Kg2 Nd3+ 35.Kf3 Nxf4 36.gxf4 a5 0-1**

Nugent, Mike (2048) – Colbert, Jeff (2045)
[B78] OCF Ladder Tulsa, OK (1), 02.04.2016
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 a5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qd4+ Kg8 17.a4 bxa4 18.Bxa4 Bxa4 19.Qxa4 e5 20.dxe6 fxe6 21.h4 Rf5 22.Qe4 Kg7 23.g4 d5 24.Qe2 Rf4 25.h5 g5 26.Qd3 Kg8 27.Qa6 Qe8 28.Rhe1 Qc6 29.Qd3 Rxf3 30.Qd2 h6 31.Re2 Qa4 32.Kb1 Qxg4 33.Rde1 Rf6 34.Qxa5 Qf5 35.Qa4 Kf8 36.Qd7 Re8 37.Re5 Qf3 38.Qh7 Re7 39.Qh8+ Kf7 40.Qh7+ Ke8 41.Qh8+ Kf7 42.R5e3 Qxh5 43.Ra3 Qg6 44.Ra8 Qg7 45.Qd8 Rf2 46.Qxe7+ Kxe7 47.Ra7+ Kf6 48.Rxg7 Kxg7 49.Rxe6 g4 50.b4 g3 51.Re3 g2 52.Rg3+ Kf7 53.Kb2 Ke6 54.b5 Kd6 55.Rg6+ Kc7 56.Kc3 h5 57.Kd4 Rf4+ 58.Ke3 Rg4 59.Rxg4 hxg4 60.Kf2 Kb6 61.Kxg2 Draw

The countdown to the first ever Pioneer Chess League regular season has begun! Your chance to join or start a new League team begins on January 1, and ends on February 20.

For more details, visit the Pioneer Chess League page on Facebook, and check out http://www.scheduleague.com/pioneerchessleague to see the League's teams, players, match results, and more!

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Oklahoma Chess Foundation

2017 OCF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The OCF has announced the following schedule of traditional quality chess tournaments for 2017:

Date	Event	Type	Location
Mar-Aug	Pioneer Chess League Regular Season	Match	Statewide
Apr 29	Red River Shootout	Match	Davis
May 27-28	FRANK K BERRY MEMORIAL	5-SS	Tulsa
Sep 2-3	JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL	5-SS	OKC
Sep 4	Pioneer Chess League Finals Match	Match	OKC
Nov ?-?	STEVE WHARRY CHESS CLASSIC	5-SS	Tulsa
Dec 30	27th Holiday Open	4-SS	Stillwater

Tommy Hay with Karis Bellisario in 2016

Matt Miller (left) vs. Steven Bellisario at the feud match in Oct. 2016. Loucas Miller spectating.

She said that she expects more of the same for 2017.

Her strategy? "I intend to be counted on for enjoyable events for all levels: excellent competition for the longtime tournament player, and a welcoming entry point for newer players through multiple sections providing each player the experience they desire, and offering all affordable entry fees, solid payouts and prizes, plus memorable photos." (For photos see their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/WestarkChessClub/photos/?ref=page_internal),

Her secret? It's the power of the chess mom. She says, "Maybe your club needs to invite moms to get involved this year and see what fresh perspective and energy they bring."

The OCM will cover some of the major Arkansas events and list their major upcoming tournaments. In addition, you can follow all that is happening in Arkansas chess at www.arkansaschess.net and her club specifically at www.westarkchess.net and www.facebook.com/WestarkChessClub

What does it feel like to be a chess player?

"You feel like a sportsman every day. Sometimes you feel like a scientist, sometimes you feel like an artist, and sometimes you feel like an imbecile."
— Viswanathan Anand